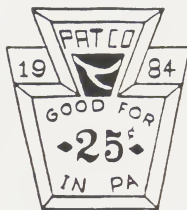


PATCO journal



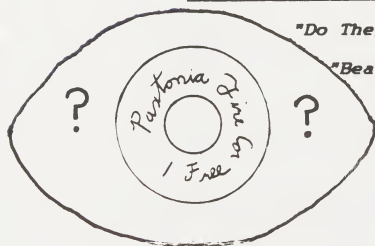
Pennsylvania Area Token Collectors Organization

May-June 1995

Volume 12-Issue 1

In this issue:

"Do They Mine Diamonds in Pennsylvania?"
by David Cerull
"Beaver County Encased Cent Update"
by Jim Hartman
& Swap Announcement



(An illustration of the Paxtonia Fire Co. token)

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Bottles Jr., 589 S. Pike St., Shinnston, WV 26431

Do They Mine Diamonds In Pennsylvania?

(Subtitled: AFTER YOU OPEN THE PARCEL)

by David Cerull, Box 992, Milwaukee, WI 53201

It was no surprise that there was a parcel in the mail. In fact, I had ordered three separate items from three separate dealers a few weeks back. If there was not at least one parcel in the box, I would have been surprised.

Pealed apart the cardboard packing and what the heck is this? It had been advertised as a token, but I had in my hand a brass washer. Closer inspection revealed that, although it was a brass washer, it had the inscription on one side "PAXTONIA FIRE CO. - 1 FREE."

Still a little disappointed. Thought a little, thought a little, then remembered, I belong to the PATCO, and this "thing" is advertised as being from Pennsylvania, maybe I should give this a little effort. At the worst I can write an article about the piece. Who knows where the story will lead? Remember the saying: "A diamond in the rough."

Next day I fired off one of those "Dear To Whom It May Concern, Please tell me something, anything, about....," letters.

Finished the letter (a couple little tips here: enclose a S.A.S.E. as experience has shown it increases the chance of a reply significantly; additionally, type your request letter, if they can't read it, they can't answer it!) and then prepared the mailing envelope.

Here came a few common occurrences. First, I had no mailing address. With government institutions, like fire departments, I have been able to get away with an incomplete, two line address such as SUN CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT, SUN CITY, ARIZONA. I will not attempt in this short article to explain some of the techniques of getting complete addresses for private businesses. Even with this two-liner, something was missing that should be there.

Missing was the ZIP code. This second common occurrence is easily remedied by a visit to the post office. Yes, a phone call will work, but has some

Continued...

Diamonds Continued...

shortcomings. Plus, as long as you're going to have to mail it anyway, you might as well stop in.

My visit to the post office resulted in finding that there is no PAXTONIA listed in Pennsylvania. Here, though, is an example of why a visit to the post office is helpful. Running my finger down the page, I stopped at the place where PAXTONIA should be, but instead found PAXTONVILLE 17861. A check of the state's road map then revealed that there is a PAXTONIA outside of Harrisburg, but apparently no PAXTONVILLE.

A number of possibilities exist. After a little thought, the most likely is that I have, in fact, found the right town. In a similar manner to the way that the kids at my high school, Washington, called themselves "Washingtonians," PAXTONIA probably is the fire company name from PAXTONVILLE.

At this point I am only going to tell you that I found out thatI hope you will give a shot at researching tokens, from Pennsylvania or elsewhere, that fall into the "What the heck is this?" column. You may find "a diamond in the rough."

(COPYRIGHT DAVID CERULL 1995)

Dues Reminder...

This particular journal represents the first issue of the new PATCO membership year. Thus, if you've received it but still haven't paid your dues, then consider the issue as a freebee courtesy of the members currently in good standing. The next issue, however, will only be sent out to those who have sent in their five bucks.

(So, rather than send four bucks to a larger national organization in order to receive a membership list that its members assumed would be free with their \$20+ dues, why not invest the extra dollar to renew your membership in PATCO where there are no hidden costs?). Seriously, let's keep our small club strong by renewing our memberships and seeking new members!

--- Also, in the last issue we put out a call for nominees to take a turn at the club's officers positions. As you can see, there is no ballot in this issue, which means there were no nominations, which means our officers from last year have been reappointed by the ever-popular "silent majority."---

PATCO SWAP & MEETING

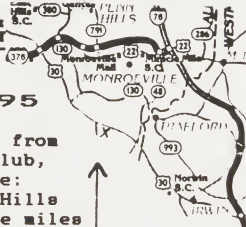
Saturday, July 22, 1995

A PATCO club meeting and swap will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Eva Gymnastics Club, 1070 3rd St., North Versailles, Pa. To get there:

From the Parkway East (376) - Take Forest Hills Exit to Ardmore Blvd./Route 30 East, follow five miles past two shopping centers and Route 148, make a right onto 3rd Street at Nelson Memorial, go down the hill two blocks and Eva's is on the left.

From the Penna. Turnpike (76) - take Irwin Exit to Route 30 West, follow about four to five miles, turn left onto 3rd Street at Nelson Memorial (sign on pole).

Questions? Try giving Richard Crosby a call in the evening at (412) 823-0899.



BEAVER COUNTY ENCASED CENT UPDATE

By Jim Hartman

AMBRIDGE

SOUVENIR OF / OLD ECONOMY / AMBRIDGE, PA.

K M A N G B I B G L HS AL 1967 CENT (HAM)

BEAVER

BEAVER LUNCH / 1924 1954 / 30TH ANNIVERSARY

K M A N G B RD AL 1953D CENT

FREEDOM

OPEN AN / ACCOUNT TODAY / THE / FREEDOM NATIONAL / BANK / BUILT FOR YOU IN '72

(LOOSE CENT IN CLEAR PLASTIC) RD BROWN PLAS 1947D CENT (LOOPED)

Any new additions from Beaver, Butler or Lawrence counties can be sent to me. The original listing was in volume 9 issue 1. Anyone wishing an updated listing can send me a S.A.S.E.



Private Collector Wants

Pittsburgh Railways Company

Items of all kinds:

**Transfers - Tickets - Passes - Signage
Hat Badges - Uniform Badges
Trustee Plates - Time Tables
Hardware - Uniforms - Memorabilia
Rule Books - Photographs**

Also, the same items from other Pennsylvania area street railway co. or bus company, Pgh. Rys. Co. predecessor, or any incline railway co. Also any North American pre-1950 Trolley tickets and or transfers. Need many of the rarer Pa. TTs. Also want "Pittsburgh's Luna Park" tokens and Duquesne Gardens' skate checks. also, Maryland pickers, peelers, & cannery tokens. Will answer all letters.

**Wanted - Pittsburgh Railways Co.
Motorman, Conductor, Trainman
and Operator Badges**

Russell Cashdollar
1643 N. Calvert St.
Baltimore MD 21202

Home: (410) 244-0953
Work: (202) 357-1844

PATCO journal



Pennsylvania Area Token Collectors Organization

July-August 1995

Volume 12-Issue 2

In this issue:

*"The Milk Wagon Token of Otto's Suburban Dairy"
& "What's a POG??" by Rich Bottles Jr.,
plus a Swap Announcement*



*(You've seen them everywhere else, so it was only a
matter of time before POG hit the cover of the journal)*

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The Milk Wagon Token of Otto's Suburban Dairy

by Rich Bottles Jr.

An act of good will on the part of a Pennsylvania token collector helped bring a wealth of information on an unusual maverick dairy token, which I'd like to share with the club.

Buried somewhere in a flea market earlier this year was a 25mm brass dairy token with the following inscription: OTTO'S / ~ / SUBURBAN / ~ / DAIRY" on the obverse and "GOOD FOR / ~ / ONE QUART / ~ / OFF WAGON" on the reverse.

A local collector, who was familiar with the daughter of the dairy's owner, bought the token and passed it onto her. Marlene Otto Morrell, who had a milk bottle collection and other memorabilia related to her father's business, was excited to receive the token and has provided us some background information on the mysterious piece.

Ms. Morrell relates that her father, J. Walter Otto, and his brothers, B. Franklin and Richard W. Otto, operated Otto's Suburban Dairy on Camp Horne Road in Emsworth, Pennsylvania.

"When my father was very young, he used to sell milk from a wagon and that is most likely when the tokens were used," she recalled. "My father would have been 90 years old this year, so the token has to be about 70 years old. I'm sure milk was no more than five or ten cents at the time."

The business eventually grew from that one wagon to a fleet of 65 trucks, delivering milk directly to people's homes. While the Emsworth dairy later processed and bottled milk transported by tanker from a substation in Greenville, it also managed to produce all the buttermilk, cottage cheese and ice cream that the company marketed.

"In those days, there was no emphasis on low-fat or no-fat," Ms. Morrell pointed out. "People included our dairy in their summer outings because of the wonderful ice cream sold from our lunch room and soda fountain. My father sold the business in 1966 and retired."

Pittsburgh area token collectors, who may have previously attributed such a token to Allegheny County

Continued...

Otto's Continued...

based upon the existence of an Otto Milk Company on Smallman Street in Pittsburgh, would be interested to know that the Pittsburgh-based company did not issue the token but was only slightly related to the Emsworth token-issuer.

The Otto Milk Company of Pittsburgh's strip district was operated by the cousin of J. Walter Otto, but was not related in any other way to J. Walter Otto's Emsworth business. The Otto Milk Company also strictly delivered to retail stores, while Otto's Suburban Dairy maintained its personalized home delivery.



What's a POG??

by Rich Bottles Jr.

Kids across the nation are buying up medals by the thousands, and are accenting their new collections with milk bottle caps.

Are these kids budding exonumists who are giving the token and medal hobby a boost in popularity?

No, because they are buying these medals specifically to throw down at a stack of cardboard bottle caps.

Whereas exonumists may not have as strong of a concern over the condition of their collectibles as coin collectors do, exonumists still do not actively throw around their pieces.

The national kids craze is a game called POG, which is an acronym for the ingredients of "Papaya, Orange and Guava." The ingredients are part of a Hawaiian fruit drink, which is topped off by a cardboard bottle cap.

A few years ago, kids in Hawaii started collecting the caps off this drink, and then began playing a game in which about six of the caps are stacked up obverse-side-up on a playing surface. The players then take turns "slamming" a heavy metallic disc onto the stack in order to try and flip over as many caps as possible. Each player keeps the number of caps that he or she successfully flips over with the slammer.

The caps and slammers are all over malls and department stores, including some caps with the name of the game spelled as "PAWG" in order to avoid copyright infringement. The caps and slammers usually feature popular kids themes such as professional sports, the occult and cartoon figures.

Thus, if you start seeing unusual brass or chrome-plated medals at flea markets which seem to have no commemorative or marketing purpose whatsoever, then you are probably looking at "Slammers." And you probably are not going to pay \$5 to \$10 each for the pieces, which is what the best Slammers sell for.

If you think about it, the POG game may be a result of the new respect that is being shown toward baseball cards. After all, kids used to flip baseball cards onto the floor as a competitive way of trading. But now baseball cards cost too much to carelessly flip around, and collectors check the corners of the cards closely to determine whether they're mint condition.

Once the POG fad fades, the metal slammers will probably make it into coin- and token-dealers' junk boxes, and may even find a collector base once the game has become forgotten or nostalgic.

PATCO SWAP & MEETING

Saturday, Oct. 28, 1995

A PATCO club meeting and swap will be held from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at the Pittsburgh Expomart in Monroeville, PA (near the Monroeville Mall), along Business Route 22.

The PATCO meeting is being held in conjunction with the annual Pennsylvania Association of Numismatics (PAN) Show. Look for signs near the bourse floor to direct you to the PATCO meeting area.

To gain access to Route 22 in Monroeville - Take Exit 6 of the Pennsylvania Turnpike (Route 76), or take the Penn-Lincoln Parkway East (Route 376) from the City of Pittsburgh.

See back page for more details.



P.A.N.

Coin Show

17th Annual Convention of the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists

Over 100 Tables

October 27, 28, 29 1995
Pittsburgh, PA

Over 100 Tables

The Pittsburgh ExpoMart
 Business Route 22, Monroeville, PA (Exit 6, PA Turnpike)

PUBLIC HOURS: Friday Oct 27, 10-7, Saturday Oct 28, 10-6:30, Sunday Oct 29, 10-4

FREE COIN SEMINARS

EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS

Silver Dollars - Gold Coins - U.S. Coins - Foreign Coins

Ancient Coins - Tokens - Medals - Paper Money

Club Meetings:

EAC: Early American Coppers Society
 CWTS: Civil War Token Society
 NBS: Numismatic Bibliomania Society
 PATCO: PA Token Collectors Society

Local Sponsors:

Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society
 Pittsburgh Numismatic Society
 Pennsylvania Area Token Collectors Organization
 South Hills Coin Club
 George Washington Numismatic Association

Bourse Chairman:

John Paul Sarosi
 Box 729
 Johnstown, PA 15907
 (814) 535-5766

PATCO journal



Pennsylvania Area Token Collectors Organization

September-October 1995

Volume 12-Issue 3/4

In this issue:



*(The annual wooden dollars from the 1995 PAN Show.
There was also elongated coin with the same obverse)*

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Book Review

by Rich Bottles Jr.

Bryan G. Ryker, who requested help from PATCO members in September of 1990 (Vol. 7-Issue 3) in cataloging Earl Fankhauser encased coins recently issued his book through the Token and Medal Society. The 80-page book is entitled, "Frederick Earl Fankhauser, 'The Penny Man', His Life and Work with Encased Coins."

At first, one might think that a book/listing of the encased coins produced (or sold) by just one man would not have wide enough appeal for exnumia collectors in general, but this one man is responsible for over 670 different encased coins.

Also, Ryker makes his book of general interest to all collectors by describing in detail with illustrations how the Osborne Coinage Company of Cincinnati manufactured encased coins; providing a lengthy maverick cross-reference listing that will help pinpoint the locations of some of your mystery pieces; and offering approximate values of all the pieces listed.

Thanks to a very detailed researching effort by Ryker, the book's subject turns out to be a very interesting salesman, especially when you realize that Fankhauser took the liberty to add his own name to the encased designs that his clients ordered - promoting himself in the process. Until now, many collectors believed that Fankhauser's micro-sized name on their pieces meant that he manufactured them.

The main listing, which is separated by states, is easy to read and includes useful information such as a cataloging number system; reverse die numbers; general topics; years of issue; merchant/subjects; and values.

The Pennsylvania section offers information on seven pieces issued between 1941 and 1964 by Fankhauser, including Gerlach's Money Shop, New Kensington; Coins & Currency Inc., Philadelphia (two varieties - with and without a street address); Harry J. Forman, Philadelphia; Don's Antique Shop, Pittsburgh; Bob Porter Jr., Tarentum; and Wheatland Coin Club, Wheatland.

If you know of any other Fankhauser pieces from Pennsylvania, Bryan Ryker would probably like to know about them.

For more information about his new book, you can also write to him at: 1808 Grey Birch Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46804.

THE JOHNSTOWN INCLINED PLANE

By Jim Hartman

A few months ago I went along with a friend to the Johnstown area for a short stay that lasted one night and one day. He was there strictly for business while I went up to look around for something to add to my collection. I even got to use his vehicle while he worked all day near the Johnstown campus of Pittsburgh University. I stopped at a few coin and antique shops but didn't find much except for a nice encased cent from the Windber Trust Company located in nearby Windber.

Later in the day I decided to do a little sight seeing and went to one of the local attractions, the Incline Plane. It was fun to take the trip to the top. My friend's car stayed at the bottom for it could have rode to the top too. At the top is an attractive visitor center that offers a scenic overlook of downtown Johnstown and the Conemaugh Valley below. Also located at the Incline site are a souvenir shop and a restaurant. Other improvements were made that allow visitors to view the huge driving drum, cables and other mechanical equipment in operation. Although it is now primarily a tourist attraction, it continues to transport workers between the city and Westmont borough.

The origin of the Incline goes back over a hundred years ago when the Cambria Iron Company, then the largest land owner in the area, began to develop a community located on the hilltop. The grade between Johnstown and the new community, later named Westmont, was over seventy percent. This was much too steep for the horses and wagons that were in use at the time. In order to make the new development more accessible to Johnstown, the Cambria Iron Company began construction of an inclined railway in 1890. Many of the parts of the Incline were made right in Johnstown by the Cambria Iron Company, a predecessor of Bethlehem Steel Corporation. Railroad rails were one of the company's main products back in the 1890's. Due to the unique design of the Incline, many of the tools used for construction and upkeep were hand made at a blacksmith shop at the work site. They are still used to this day.

On June 1, 1891, the Johnstown Incline opened for business. It provided convenient transportation, connecting the city with the new resident development of Westmont, primarily workers from the iron works. Almost 600 acres of land were developed for residential building in Westmont, which became one of the earliest residential suburb. Its population grew from 30 people in 1890 to almost 500 only two years later.

Originally, the Cambria Iron Company incorporated the Cambria Inclined Plane Company to attend to the business of the incline. In April 1935, Westmont Borough began operating the inclined plane, after purchasing it from the Cambria Inclined Plane Company for the price of one dollar. Following World War II, the use of the Incline declined after better roads had been built up the steep hill. In April 1961, it was closed by Westmont due to the operating cost and safety concerns over deteriorated equipment. Under public pressure against closing it, the operating responsibilities were transferred to the Cambria County Tourist Council under a lease agreement. After restoration by many community volunteers, the inclined plane was reopened in July 1962. Facing the possibility of closing again in the early 1980's, the ownership of the Johnstown Inclined Plane again changed hands. On March 8, 1983, the Cambria County Transit Authority became the Incline's third owner, purchasing it from Westmont Borough for the price of one dollar. This purchase allowed the transit authority to seek public funds and grants. Once funds were secured, the transit authority was able to repair the Incline as well as improve the hilltop station.

The 896.5 foot-long Johnstown Incline rises 502.5 feet on a continuous 71.97 percent grade, the steepest continuous grade of any incline. It was designed as a balanced incline with a double track and two cars. As one car goes up the incline the other car heads down, allowing the weight of the two cars to counterbalance each other and assist the motor in moving the cars. These cars were originally designed to provide passengers, as well as horse and carriage, a level ride up and down the hill. The horse and carriage would ride on the upper deck and the passengers would enter the bottom of the car from a door on the lower floor of each station. In 1921 the double-deck cars were renovated. The refurbished cars were designed to accommodate both vehicles and passengers on the upper deck. This is still the same design today. Each car can hold up to fifteen tons, and is attached to a steel cable. These cables are made up of six individual ropes, each spun from 36 strands of tempered steel, and formed around a core of hemp. The two hoisting cables are roughly 1,075 feet long with a two inch diameter. They are wrapped around a driving drum, 16 feet in

diameter and weighing three tons, which winds and unwinds the cables simultaneously. The original power source to the incline was a steam engine. Today the incline is operated by a 400 horsepower electric motor. The motor drives the cast-steel drum.

As I stated earlier, there is a nice souvenir shop at the top of the incline. Inside are a great variety of items available that anyone would want. For sale are the usual postcards, tee-shirts, refrigerator magnets, key chains and pins. Also available are one ounce commemorative silver bars and rounds, mirrors, "penny in the bottle" collectibles and many other items depicting the Johnstown Incline. One item really struck my eye. There was a pile of new shiny encased cents in one area of the shop. They included a key chain and are priced pretty reasonably. So all PATCO collectors should keep an eye out for new and different places to find tokens and other collectibles to add to their collections.



SOUVENIR OF/ INCLINED PLANE / JOHNSTOWN, PA.

KEEP ME AND NEVER GO BROKE / I BRING / GOOD LUCK

AL HS 1994D CENT (HOLED AS MADE)

WINDBER TRUST COMPANY / ASSETS OVER A MILLION DOLLARS / WINDBER-PENNA.

KEEP ME AND NEVER GO BROKE

AL RD 1910 CENT

**Don't Miss the
SPRING COIN CONVENTION
of the
PA. ASSN. OF NUMISMATISTS**

PITTSBURGH EXPO MART
Business Route 22
MONROEVILLE, PA

FRIDAY, MAY 10
(10 a.m. to 7 p.m.)

SATURDAY, MAY 11
(10 a.m. to 7 p.m.)

SUNDAY, MAY 12
(10 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

PATCO SWAP MEET

May 11, 1996

There will be a Swap Meet at the Spring PAN show on Saturday May 11 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The Pittsburgh Expo Mart is located near the Monroeville Mall right off of Business Route 22. It is easily accessible from the PA Turnpike (exit 6) and Interstate 376. Come to buy, sell or trade and visit the largest show in the area.

BCTA

by Jim Hartman

BCTA stands for Beaver County Transit Authority and was created in 1980 to focus on the transit needs of the county's residents. Actual service didn't start until late in 1982. The Port Authority Transit (PAT) had provided contract service to the county until December 4, 1982 from Pittsburgh to Beaver Falls. There were also various shuttles within the county that were interconnected with the main route. McCarter Transit Inc. of Chippewa Township, under contract with BCTA, owns and operates the transit and shuttle buses. At the beginning there were eight buses in service. Ten years later, 35 buses were in use and ridership totaled 600,000 for the year.

With all the growth occurring to the authority, it was decided to build a modern transit facility. BCTA had operated out of various leased buildings from the beginning. An ideal location was picked in Rochester, the "Hub" of Beaver County. A 13,500 square-foot, \$2.4 million facility was built at 200 West Washington Street. The new center, built mostly with state and federal money, is a model of modernity. The sparkling lobby contains a 39 seat passenger waiting area, an information desk and a driver's lounge. Administrative offices are housed on the second floor. On June 14, 1991 the transit authority was formally dedicated.

Later in the year, a park-n-ride lot was opened for BCTA's employees and commuters. The lot is located across the street from the center on West Washington. A promotion was held on November 9, 1991 when the lot formally opened. Free newspapers and coffee were given to visitors and riders. Anyone wishing to park in the lot and ride a BCTA bus simply enters the lot, stops at the lift gate and removes a ticket from the machine next to the gate. Later the rider will show the ticket to his bus driver and receive a token from the driver. The token is then used to activate the gate at the exit of the lot. This changed on November 7, 1994 when BCTA started running low on tokens. Now the ticket has to be shown to the clerk at the information desk in the transit center.

Well, I don't know how many times I passed the parking lot while traveling through Rochester. I didn't visit the center until I saw an article in one of the weekly newspapers that mentioned the word "token". At first I thought it would probably be a stock token or a slug. My first stop was at the information desk and the clerk showed me a few. The bad thing was that neither she or her supervisor would let me have any. After a little trouble and hard work, I was able to get one from one of the other employees. It sure looks as it could be mistaken for a transit token but it is only transit related.

BCTA

(blank)

RD BR 25 mm

*"TRANSIT MEANS BUSINESS"*

BCTA
Beaver County Transit Authority

This is part of a double issue made in an effort to catch up. There is a reason for this. Not too many articles are being sent in to Rich. In order to make things easier for Rich it has been decided to change the Journal to four issues per year. This is not to say we can't have more than four. We need more participation from everyone. Other news is that there is going to be a swap meet at the PAN show next month. Also the next issue is coming out soon. Send your ads to Rich as soon as possible. The next issue will get us caught up so dues are due soon. On your envelopes is a year (95 stands for 1995-1996, 96 stands for 1996-1997). If you have 95 on your envelope, you will need to send in \$5.00 for dues soon.

Jim Hartman
 Secretary-Treasurer

PATCO journal



Pennsylvania Area Token Collectors Organization

Nov/Dec/Jan 1995-6

Volume 12-Issue 4/5

In this issue:

*"The Famous Stores - Braddock, PA."
by Gary Patterson
"Super Steelers"
by Rich Bottles Jr.*



(A Swastika token issued by Katz & Goldsmith?)

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THE FAMOUS STORES - BRADDOCK, PA.
by Gary Patterson

12-27

Back in 1881 Leo A. Katz and L.J. Goldsmith ventured into the Clothing and Men's Furnishings. The store was small in size - about 200 ft. by 60 ft. deep and known as THE FAMOUS.

The FAMOUS opened for business at 872 Braddock Ave. The store outgrew its quarters and moved to 871 - 873. The city was growing and so was the FAMOUS. They acquired more property and moved again into larger quarters at 807 - 809 Braddock Ave.

The founders vision, dedication, honest dealing in truthful advertising and "Courteous Service Always" gave the store a large local following.

As many people began traveling substantial distances to shop at the big Dept. Store it became apparent that a store in McKeesport could be established to care for the needs of that city. So in 1915 the largest and foremost store in McKeesport was opened - it also was called THE FAMOUS.

I do not know if these stores are still in business or not. I do know that the Maverick Swastika token listed below now can be attributed to Braddock, Pa. I can also tell you that in Charles E. Kirtey's Mail Bid #91 (1992) another token is listed from the FAMOUS.

THE FAMOUS BRADDOCK, KATZ & GOLDSMITH 25 RD, Brass.

The Swastika token reads:

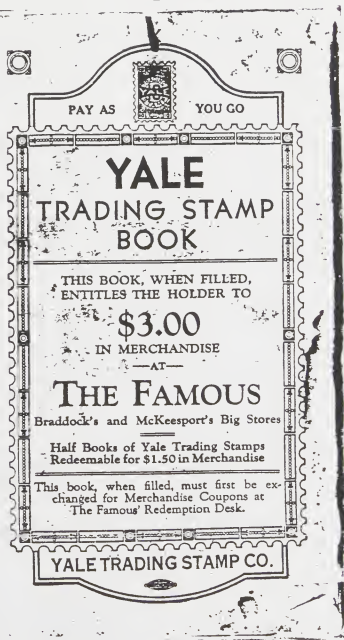
obv. KEEPING PACE WITH PROGRESS BRINGS SUCCESS ALWAYS \
*** \ 1881 - 1931 \ GOLDEN \ JUBILEE \ THE FAMOUS BRADDOCK

rev. 50 YEARS OF GOOD LUCK ASSURED IF YOU KEEP THIS \
CHARM COIN.

LEFT SWASTIKA, GOOD LUCK SYMBOLS, BRASS, 32mm



Below are enlarged photographs of another token issued by The Famous of Braddock, along with a photocopy of the cover from the store's Yale Trading Stamp Book.



The individually-numbered 25mm aluminum trade token has the following inscriptions: "(diamond) YALE CHECK (diamond) / GOOD FOR / 25¢ / IN MERCHANDISE / THE FAMOUS / BRADDOCK / Katz and Goldsmith" on the obverse, and "GOOD FOR 30 DAYS ONLY FROM / DATE OF ISSUE / VOID / IF TRANSFERRED / THE FAMOUS / BRADDOCK / 4413 (punched numbers)" on the obverse.

Super Steeler Coins

by Rich Bottles Jr.

Now that enough time has passed for your disappointment to fade concerning last season's Super Steeler performance in the Super Bowl, I thought I'd remind you that some Giant Eagle grocery stores are still trying to sell their Super Steeler "Coin" sets.

The 31mm medals with different football players depicted upon them were originally sold one at a time through Giant Eagle - a different player each week was offered for nine weeks. But now stores are trying to unload the remaining medals left over from each week by selling them as a set for about \$20.

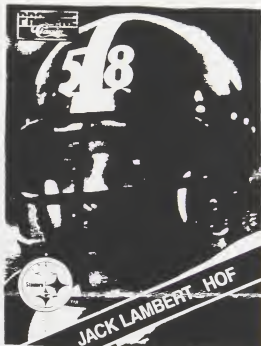
The series includes eight white metal pieces with the faces of Steeler players on the obverses. There is also a brass-colored (-plated?) piece featuring the face of coach Bill Cowher. The obverse legends all include the player's name flanked by footballs around the top, the player's face in the center and the words "PITTSBURGH Steelers TM" along the bottom.

The players' names, jersey numbers and Hall of Fame designations as they appear on the medals include: MEL BLOUNT / H.O.F. / #47; JOE GREENE / H.O.F. / #75; KEVIN GREENE / #91; FRANCO HARRIS / H.O.F. / #32; JACK LAMBERT / H.O.F. / #58; GREG LLOYD / #95; BYRON "BAM" MORRIS / #33; ROD WOODSON / #26; and BILL COWHER / HEAD / COACH.

The common reverse features the Steelers logo in the center and the following inscription: Super Steelers TM / '95 Steelers (three diamonds) '96 / TM / LIMITED EDITION (dot) EXCLUSIVE COLLECTION. Since we are reproducing the medals as pictures in this issue of PATCO, I have to act like I do not know what the initials "TM" represent.

Each individual medal was sold in a cellophane wrapper, which included a football card produced by Pro Line Classic depicting the same player as the accompanying medal. The back of the cards have a check list for the nine medals of the set, and feature the advertising logos of the Steelers, Giant Eagle and UPI Marketing Inc.

A free cardboard display board, complete with a plastic sleeve with enough PVC's to probably ruin the medals in a few years, was also offered at Giant Eagle. If any of the mass-produced medals ever do gain value, they probably will be the ones that have been left in the cellophane wrappers with the accompanying cards.



MEL
BLOUNT



JOE
GREENE



KEVIN
GREENE



FRANCO
HARRIS



BILL

'95 Super Steelers



COWHER



JACK
LAMBERT



GREG
LLOYD



BYRON
"BAM" MORRIS



ROD
WOODSON

(Depicted above is the reverse of one the medals, the front of one of the accompanying football cards, and what the medals look like displayed in the free board)

PATCO journal



Pennsylvania Area Token Collectors Organization

Feb/March/April 1996

Volume 12-Issue 5/6

In this issue:

"Pittsburgh Exposition Medals of the 1890's"
by Rich Bottles Jr.

*Swap and dues announcements &
an April Fool's joke*



(The pre-Laird Pittsburgh Exposition Medal)

PATCO DUES: Regular membership (Adult) \$5.00;
Associate (No journal) \$3.00; Junior (Under 18) \$3.00;
Lifetime \$100.00.

ADVERTISING RATES: Full Page is \$12; Half Page is
\$7.00; Quarter Page is \$4.50; Eighth Page is \$2.25.

**-- All checks for dues and
advertising must be payable
to: PATCO --**

Applications for membership and information on
dues should be directed to: Secretary-Treasurer Jim
Hartman, P.O. Box 1702, Beaver Falls, PA 15010

All paid ads should be "Camera Ready" (designed
and laid out by you) for publication in order to avoid
additional charges, and should be sent to: Editor Rich
Bottles Jr., 589 S. Pike St., Shinnston, WV 26431

Pittsburgh Exposition Medals of the 1890's

by Rich Bottles Jr.

Once upon a time there was a Pittsburgh Exposition originated by the Tradesmen's Industrial Institute in October of 1875. It was held annually near the Union Bridge of Allegheny City at the corner of South Avenue and School Street.

Much has been written about the North Side's historic exposition, which was one of the first of its kind in the country, by numerous exonomists and catalogers, mainly because of a rare aluminum expo medal advertising W.A. Bunting & Son engravers and a slew of Pittsburgh Exposition/WPNS medals in various metals.

However, as happens to most exposition sites, the buildings eventually burn down. When this occurred at the Allegheny City site in 1883, the fire resulted in a \$750,000 loss and the Pittsburgh area was without an annual trade fair until 1889.

The next Pittsburgh Exposition started organizing itself as the Western Pennsylvania Exposition in November of 1885, but wouldn't open for four years because of the construction of three new buildings - Machinery Hall, Music Hall and the Main Building - on a six-acre lot along Duquesne Way adjacent to today's Point State Park.

The doors of the new downtown Pittsburgh Exposition opened in September of 1889, and along with it came a host of new advertising medals.

These pieces all share the common characteristics of being 38mm in size; promote both the exposition and a company; composed of either white metal or aluminum; and were issued between 1890 and 1892. Most were also holed for suspension, probably as souvenir watch fobs.

I believe the most interesting of these pieces is one that has a simple obverse design of "EXPOSITION" along the top of the rim and "PITTSBURG" along the bottom. It has the familiar Goodyear Welt globe design on the reverse.

This aluminum piece was probably issued in 1890, which can be determined thanks to the large blank space in the middle of the obverse between the two words. The empty space on the token that I possess served as an invitation to the original owner to scratch the date

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"1890" into the center.

But the reason that this simple token is so interesting is because the same die was later re-engraved to advertise a shoemaker. The empty space described above was inscribed to advertise the wares of W.M. Laird, which proves to be much more attractive than a scratched-in date. The reverse of the Laird merchant token also has the same Goodyear reverse as the first piece.

--There is at least one other 38mm aluminum token with the Goodyear globe reverse. The piece advertises Barbour's Linen Thread, including a hand trademark, but there is no evidence that I know of to attribute this company to Pittsburgh or to suggest that the piece was distributed at the Pittsburgh Exposition (keep in mind that Goodyear is not a Pittsburgh company).--

Another interesting pair of tokens issued during the opening years of the exposition was issued by Gusky's clothing store. If you've been lucky enough to see a number of these white metal tokens, you may have noticed that there is a reverse variety.

One variety has a comma after the line "FOR MEN & BOYS" and one does not. The other side of the Gusky's merchant tokens depicts one of the exposition buildings and the date of 1891.

--Gusky's also issued an impressive white metal token to commemorate the Semi-Centennial of Queen Victoria's Jubilee/crowning in 1887. The piece, which features the image of St. George slaying a dragon, cannot be considered an exposition piece because of its date.--

The 400th anniversary of Columbus's voyage in 1892 prompted yet another advertising piece to be distributed at the exposition. This aluminum merchant token was issued appropriately by the Pittsburgh Reduction Company.

In March of 1901, fire also caught up with these new expo buildings and destroyed everything except the Music Hall. But the lost buildings were quickly rebuilt using steel and stone, and the expo re-opened six months later.

The buildings offered a thousand square feet of display area, featuring exhibitions from across North and South America. The expo was usually open for two months each year, drawing in as many as a half million visitors.

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Playing on the music stage had been the likes of Sousa, the London Symphony Orchestra and the Philadelphia Orchestra; while stage speakers included William Jennings Bryan and presidents Woodrow Wilson and Theodore Roosevelt.

It took a World War to finally cause the Western Pennsylvania Exposition to come to a halt some time before 1914. But it seems unusual that the last known token issued at the Pittsburgh Exposition has a date of 1892 (unless you other collectors know of a later piece).

The complete descriptions of the four major types of Pittsburgh Exposition souvenir pieces from the 1890's are as follows:

- 1) OBV: EXPOSITION / PITTSBURG
REV: (star) CALL FOR GOODYEAR WELT AND TURNED
(star) / (globe & ribbon) TRADE / GOODYEAR
WELT / MARK / CLC / SHOES
(38mm, round, aluminum)
- 2) OBV: EXPOSITION / MEDAL / SHOES / W.M. LAIRD. /
MANUFACTURER / JOBBER / RETAILER / PITTSBURG
REV: (star) CALL FOR GOODYEAR WELT AND TURNED
(star) / (globe & ribbon) TRADE / GOODYEAR
WELT / MARK / CLC / SHOES
(38mm, round, aluminum)
- 3) OBV: PRESENTED AT 3D. ANNUAL EXPOSITION, PITTSBURG
/ (building) / SEP. 2 TO OCT. 17 / 1891
REV: (wreath) THE / LEADING / OUTFITTERS / FOR MEN
& BOYS, / GUSKY'S / 300 TO 400 / MARKET ST. /
PITTSBURG, / PA.
- 4) OBV: - COLUMBUS CENTENNIAL MEDAL - / (Columbus) /
1492-1892
REV: SOUVENIR / OF THE / PITTSBURGH (on ribbon) /
EXPOSITION (on ribbon) / ALUMINUM MADE / BY /
THE / PITTSBURGH / REDUCTION / COMPANY





It's time to pay your dues!



P.A.N. Coin Show

18th Annual Convention of the
Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists

Over 100 Tables

May 10, 11, 12, 1996

Over 100 Tables

• The Pittsburgh ExpoMart •

Business Route 22, Monroeville, PA (Exit 6, PA Turnpike)
Public Hours: Friday, 10-7, Saturday, 10-7, Sunday, 10-4

Silver Dollars - Gold Coins - U.S. Coins - Foreign Coins
Ancient Coins - Tokens - Medals - Paper Money

Bourse Chairman:

John Paul Sarosi
Box 729, Johnstown, PA 15907
(814) 535-5766

Fanatic Opens Fire at Show

LANCASTER - A man resembling a muscle-bound cartoon truck driver from a Chick religious tract opened fire on a room full of hobbyists Sunday morning, April 14, killing dozens and wounding at least 50 with his automatic rifle.

The man, who calls himself Binky, burst onto the bourse floor of the Central Pennsylvania Numismatics Show just as the coin show opened its doors to the public.

Police officials and witnesses could give no definite motive behind the massacre, except for scattered reports that the man was ranting and raving about "selfish and greedy collectors who won't continue to send money to our beloved newsletter publisher."

"You all killed ATCO! You all killed ATCO!" screamed the man as police drug him away once his ammunition supply was depleted.

Show spokesman Roger Hershey explained that 'ATCO' is the name of a newsletter for token collectors.

"I knew he was a token collector as soon as he started shooting," commented Hershey, who attends about 100 coin shows a year. "Token collectors are nothing but a bunch of crazy bastards."

A coin dealer/columnist, who wished to remain anonymous because of his well-known numismatics firm and his part ownership of a grading service

that helps to sell his coins, insisted on giving his opinion of the incident.

"At first I thought the cha, was unsuccessfully trying to re-sell a coin back to the dealer he had bought it from the day before," the relic commented chewing scholarly upon his eyeglasses. "Sometimes collectors who buy from us dealers don't realize that a particular coin can lose a number of grading points overnight. If such was the case with this collector, I'd suggest that he should have bought the book before he bought the coin."

When asked what book he was referring to, the dealer provided a list of his own books that were for sale.

An independent investigation into the cryptic ravings of the maniac produced limited information about the group calling itself the Active Token Collectors Organization or ATCO.

The "club" charges an annual membership fee of \$27.50, which includes 11 issues of a newsletter in which the editor routinely requests more money, especially from Life Members who paid for a long-term membership specifically to avoid such future payments.

Unconfirmed reports from hobby insiders relate that the editor, who reportedly uses a pseudonym, is actually Dianetics pioneer L. Ron Hubbard.

-The person who sent me this clipping failed to mention which newspaper it was from. RB

PATCO SWAP & MEETING

Saturday, May 11, 1996

A PATCO club meeting and swap will be held from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at the Pittsburgh Expomart in Monroeville, PA (near the Monroeville Mall), along Business Route 22.

The PATCO meeting is being held in conjunction with the annual Pennsylvania Association of Numismatics (PAN) Show. Look for signs near the bourse floor to direct you to the PATCO meeting area.

To gain access to Route 22 in Monroeville - Take Exit 6 of the Pennsylvania Turnpike (Route 76), or take the Penn-Lincoln Parkway East (Route 376) from the City of Pittsburgh.